

Appl. No. 09/917,963
Amdt. dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2003

REMARKS

After amendment, the pending claims are 2 and 4-15. Claim 1 is canceled in an effort to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute claim 1 in a divisional and/or continuation application filed during the pendency of this application.

Claims 2, 12, and 15 are amended to make these claims dependent upon allowable claim 11. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Examiner's Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-15 under 35 USC 103(a) over Wetterau et al. (US Patent No. 5,595,872), Beissen et al. (*Circulation*, 102(18), suppl. II, page 148 (October 13, 2000), Baracchini et al. (US Patent No. 5,801,154), and Bennett et al. (US Patent No. 5,998,148).

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for the following reason.

Claim 1 is canceled and claims 2, 12, and 15 made dependent upon allowable claim 11, thereby mooting the outstanding rejection as applied to these claims. As amended, claims 4-10 and 13-14 now indirectly depend from allowable claim 11, thereby mooting the outstanding rejection as applied to these claims.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in any fees due with the filing of this paper or credit any overpayment in any fees to our Deposit Account Number 08-3040.

Respectfully submitted,

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